The Brethren Evangelist

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ADDRESS,
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ASHLAND, O., July 20, 1887.

The Ashland Convention And a Few Other Things.

In the first place let there be no confusion about the location. The Convention will be held at Ashland and not at some other place. A proposition to change from Ashland will not now be entertained. The committees appointed to secure rates of travel should now go to work without delay to secure the lowest rates possible.

Congregations should elect their delegates and equip them for the journey and for the work to be done. All those who have the good of the cause at heart should be earnestly engaged in contributing their mite towards furthering the work of the Convention. Some can go there in person, some can give good counsel in writing, some can assist others to go, and all can pray for God's spirit to guide his children in the great work to be accomplished. If any have any selfish ends to accomplish let them remember that this convention is called to honor and glorify God. Let there be a grand reunion of kindred spirits, a convocation of Christian workers, and such a unity of purpose in the work of building for the Lord, that the enemies of pure and undefiled religion will be discomfited and all his people be encouraged.

NO LONGER 100,000 STRONG.

It appears from the full report of the German Baptist Annual Meeting held at Ottawa, that there were present at that meeting but 264 delegates representing 250 individual churches. According to their rules of apportionment of delegates, only those churches having over 200 members may send two delegates each, therefore it appears that only fourteen churches of those represented have over that number. Granting to these the very liberal estimate of 300 members each (4200), and the others an average of 100 members each, (23,600), the whole number of German Baptist Dunkards represented by delegates at the Ottawa Annual Meeting, was only 27,800. From these facts we are able to make the following deductions: Either the numerical strength of this church has been greatly over-estimated in the past, or there has been a perceptible falling off lately, or many of the churches do not represent at Annual Meeting, thus showing a lack of interest in the proceedings of that body.

Now as the German Baptist church is only distinguished from the Brethren church by its loyalty and devotion to its annual meeting, the fact, that less than 30,000 members were represented at this, one of their largest meetings, when they have claimed 100,000 members before the division, is highly significant. It demonstrates by the uncontrovertible logic of cold facts, that the gospel-alone doctrines of the Brethren church is gaining ground at rapid rate, and is bound to gain the victory. The Brethren must increase while the German Baptists decrease.

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.

We have become apprised of the fact that the German Baptists in some localities are preaching from the following text furnished by Eld. H. R. Holsinger in his correspondence in No 20, current volume: "We are following the popular current of the day's religion, and shouting the motto of 'No Creed,' and it will not be long until it may be added, and mighty little gospel."

We simply state this fact in order to give Elder Holsinger an opportunity to explain how it happens that he is furnishing the German Baptists with texts to preach from.

YODER.

(*To be Continued.*)

Commendable.

As the subject of locating the convention is now settled and the brethren who have the cause at heart know where they are expected to meet, they are taking hold of the work in earnest. Let brother Yoder's admonition be heeded.

From this time on let the brethren who have the cause of the Master at heart, pray to God for direction that the work of the coming convention may redound to his glory and to the development of his glorious cause on earth.

True Wealth.

True wealth consists not in the abundance of gold and silver that a man possesses, but in godliness. Earthly wealth is perishable, and no one can be sure that his worldly possessions will remain, even until he wants them no longer. The shifting and fickle dispenser of fortune may soon take away all and leave him without possessions. No one can tell where the thunder will strike, where the accidental torch will begin its work, where the fierce wind will scatter destruction, where the cyclone will sweep in deadly whirls, or the earthquake shake to pieces.

A treasure in heaven is enduring riches, and the nearer death and eternity comes, the more valuable it will become.

A visitor at the deathbed of A. T. Stewart wrote that he never saw a dying person in greater distress. There was his millions—his life, his consolation, his all. His whole soul, mind and comfort was wrapped up in that wealth. Now he must leave all—leave the fruits of a life of sacrifice, of severe application, of constant toil, of anxiety of mind, of unceasing cares—all, is left to be scattered here and there as he found it in the days of his manhood and prosperity, and he goes naked, unsaved, unhonored and unloved by angels or Christ, into the resistless flood that sweeps all before it into the Courts of Eternal Judgment.

View that mighty man of wealth before the throne of God, sin-cursed, ashamed, rejected, condemned and confounded.

"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

Contented.

The Apostle Paul at one time said of himself: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be contented." It is only the master man who can say this of himself. Eighty per cent of all the miseries of time, men bring upon themselves by not being contented with their situation.

To work themselves into prominence, men will resort to all varieties of trickery, and condemn themselves in the sight of God. There is no end to the hypocrisy men will play to weaken or destroy the influence of others who rightfully stand in the way they have chosen to wealth, fame or honor. All this creates misery. How much better it would be for men to accept the situation, as appointed to him in the providence of God. How much more happiness there would be in the world if every being, bearing the image of God would learn the lesson the Apostle did.

Horse Racing.

The season of the year is again at hand when horse racing will furnish amusement for thousands. Possibly an innocent race may not be very harmful. But in this country it cannot be kept alone. Gambling and drinking always associate themselves with it, and in this way it becomes one of the most vicious forms of amusement in the land. Christians can have nothing to do with them and be loyal to the profession. In the first place the horse that is taken into the race is abused, and all that clusters around is contaminating in character. The governments of the land should create heavy fines and imprisonments and execute them upon all who engage in the vicious habit.

Wonderful Waste.

About seven hundred millions of dollars are annually thrown away for intoxicating liquors, which, in the main, brutalize men and unfits them for places of responsibility, constant toil, good citizenship, and heaven.

There is wasted in tobacco in the United States enough money to feed, clothe and shelter all the suffering poor on this continent, and there willstill be a surplus of five or six millions of dollars.

If the Christian will sit down and view this enormous waste of money, brain and health, how can he give them the least encouragement? Let Christians arouse to a sense of their duty and strike down these gigantic sins.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

Sister Sarah Holsinger, of Sulphur Springs, Ind., is one of the true and devoted laborers in the Lord's Harvest, who works for the good of the cause and speaks encouraging words to help others.

The new Brethren Church will be dedicated at Oakville, Ind., on July 24, Brethren Holsinger and Swihart are expected to be present. A communion will be held on the evening of the 23d. We take the liberty of saying that all will be welcome. This is, so to speak, a new church in all respects. Bro. J. H. Swihart commenced meeting at that place last year and there was a great revival, and this organization and a new church are the results. May the Lord bless the vine at Oakville.

Bro. J. M. Rittgers, of Sweet Home, Ind., is available as an evangelist. His purpose is to give his time to this work.

The Vindicator for July contained seven announcements for communions to be held in September and October. A monthly requires an announcement long before hand, to be valuable.

Bro. H. G. Ullery, of Covington, O., writes us an encouraging letter. The brethren there are still pressing forward.

The Old Order Y. M., fed about 3,500 people on Sunday. This is a burden that there is not much grace in bearing.

Bro. A. A. Cober reports further success in his field this week. There is something very commendable about a work that brings sinners to the fold of Christ in this way.

Bro. A. J. Sterling authorizes us to send the EVANGELIST to Johnstown, Pa., to the Young Men's Christian Association, and encloses full subscription. This is a deed worthy of imitation. It shows that brethren who do such things have the cause at heart, and desire to see the Lord's work go on.

We are sending out reminders to our subscribers who are behind in the payment of their subscriptions. Those who receive such notices, and know that they are in arrears will confer a favor upon us by remitting what is due, and if any one should receive such a notice, who have paid, they will please not be offended. We are now printing the date of expiration of subscription with all names, and you can always tell when the proper credit has been given you on our books by examining the date with your name.

The prospects for an increased attendance at Ashland College are more encouraging than ever, and the per cent of increase will likely be maintained. The whole attendance this year was about one-third more than it was last year. If this rate of increase is maintained, the school will be one of the most prosperous in Ohio in a few years. It can easily be done if our brethren will take the interest in the work they should.

This week the inside contains a picture of the noted skeptic, Ingersoll, and with it a brief biographical sketch in which it is stated that he is to receive $100,000 for defending a man charged with enormous theft. He could probably do the deed with greater freedom than most other lawyers, for his conscience is harder than flint.

We learn that Bro. Ditch, who educated himself at Ashland College, is doing very well as a pastor. He has a charge near Elkhart, Ind.

Bro. Ephraim Baker, of Lexington, Preble Co., Ohio, writes that their meeting house was blown down on the 9th, and that the Lexington congregation is without a house to worship in. When this congregation organized in 1883, they used the United Brethren church, but afterwards an old disused Presbyterian house was offered them. So this was fixed up and although small made a comfortable house of worship. We hope however that all will soon be well with them again, and that even out of this catastrophe, good will eventually come, to the honor of God, and the credit of the Brethren church. In his grace let us trust.

We see that M. M. Eshelman, in suggesting a code of laws that shall govern the proposed Kansas G. B. College, thinks that all students that are members of the church, must don the A. M. uniform, and those not members, a form of dress prescribed by the Trustees. It is a wonder he did not propose a dress-making and tailoring department, where the studeuts could be initiated into the great mystery of fashioning the sacred dress, in accordance with their immutable decree. We are glad that we can say that Ashland College is open to all, free of all such nonsense.

We are glad that one of our Pa. churches is putting herself on record gloriously on the Temperance question. It seems that there is a brother down there that has been carrying on some kind of a traffic in whiskey. Although not done by himself in his own name, he gets behind some of his children. The officers of the church visited him, and requested him to quit. After a consultation with his family he gave in his decision that he expected to keep on. Now there has been a petition in circulation among the members, which will be signed by an overwhelming majority, requesting him, in a stated time, either to quit the business or the church. That is right, brethren, stand firm on Gospel principles at all hazard. We do not require any special legislation to make whiskey-making or selling wrong. The Gospel does that effectually. This same brother carried on this kind of busines for years in the church, yet, with all their legislation, he was left alone.

Yes, they are coming. We rejoice to see the German Baptists are fast following in the footsteps of the Brethren. We should rejoice exceedingly that we have been the humble means of leading this people into greater light. Here we find the remarks of Elder J. H. Moore, concerning the late Annual Meeting, and wonder of wonders, such heresy is published in the *Messenger:*

"Is it gospel to repeat a rite or institution twice for the same occasion? Why wash feet *once*, partake of the supper *once*, and the communion *once*, and then pass the kiss *twice*? Our members are looking at these things, and the more they look at the written word the more clearly will they see the point. And that is what makes things like these gain strength. The more conservative need not become alarmed at it; it is but a legitimate outgrowth of the Bible."

Bro. Mason, on his visit to the Miami Valley, on the 9th and 10th, was taken very seriously sick. He filled the Little York appointments, and gave them two very short talks. He was unable to go to Miamisburg as he had intended. He is now getting all right again, and went down there and Farmersville last Saturday.

The spirit of religious liberty is even getting into the Catholic church. Dr. McGlynn has defied the Pope and the whole church. He has been excommunicated, but the people protest against the injustice. An indignation meeting, attended by thousands, met lately in New York. The Doctor was greeted with such cheering as is seldom heard. After the roar of voices had sank away to a murmur, a voice shouted in clear tones: "They'll hear this in Rome. The victim was introduced in the following words: "We are here to-night to let Rome know that in matters political not one jot of our allegiance is rendered to any power or popentate, but in its entirety is given to the laws and constitution of the United States. All of you went to your several churches to-day, but not in one church did any one dare to stand up and read the decree of Michael Augustine Corrigan."

So may all ecclesiastical tyranny be opposed and met. *Sic transit*, the Pope and his Bulls.

The religious humbug that has been carried on for years in the vicinity of Cincinnati, by a set of enthusiasts calling themselves "Perfectionists," has at last exploded. It seems that one Mrs. Martin claimed she was God, and her sister Mrs. Brooks was Christ. There has been a great church trial, and the fraud has been well ventilated by the husband of Mrs. Martin. Such infamous presumption should be checked with emphasis. Now this is what this kind of work generally leads to. This was a gradual process no doubt. First of all she only claimed extreme piety, then infallibility, eventually divine power, at last Divinity itself. Mrs. Martin is not the first instance of such delusion. The Pope and Catholic councils, and even our modern Annual Meeting, are only instances of how this kind of delusion can grow. But the spirit of the age is too much for such works, and it is receiving a check.

Convention at Ashland September 21st. Don't forget the time and place, and begin now to prepare for the work and to come.

The Ohio Home Mission Board met at the home of brother Miller, in Wayne county, last Saturday. A report will likely be sent in for next week.

The brethren in Kansas will take notice that there is an article on the last page by Jacob W. Beer, concerning the subject of sending delegates to the convention. Kansas should send more than four instead of less. It might be well for the brethren to call for volunteers as there are certainly brethren in the state who will come whether delegates or not.

Married.

In church, after prayer service, by Rev. H. S. Jacobs, July 14th, 1887, Mr. C. Frank Atkins and Miss Lula J. Mayes, all of Homer Tp., Medina Co., O.